CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	Facebook Conversation (Page 152)
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1500031.017
Medium:	Computer Text File Printout
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	New Zealand
Language:	English
Applicant:	Commissioner of Police
Classification:	Objectionable.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	25 February 2015
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued
Date of notice of decision:	25 February 2015

Summary of reasons for decision:

The publication is a private and predominantly one-sided social media conversation focused on sexual communication with a young person in the form of text and imagery. The publication also exploits the nudity of the teenage girl and describes and depicts sexual conduct by a young person.

This sexually exploitative content is of such a high degree and extent that its availability is likely to be injurious to the public good. Certainly any wider availability re-victimises the young person involved. Furthermore, in the hands of a person with a sexual interest in young persons, this publication provides gratification and validates and legitimises that prurient interest. The instructive quality of the publication provides the reader guidance on child grooming techniques and also legitimises sexually predatory behaviour.

The publication is therefore objectionable. This classification interferes with freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the NZBR Act. However this outcome is consistent with parliament's intention to limit the availability of publications that sexually exploit young persons.